

Minutes of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee meeting

held on 6th-7th July 2022 at Double Tree by Hilton, 60 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9LA

Present: Reena Barai, David Broome, Clare Kerr, Ian Cubbin, Marc Donovan, Lindsey Fairbrother, Samantha Fisher, Mark Griffiths, Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Ifti Khan, Sue Killen (Chair), Sunil Kochhar, Rhys Martin, Fin McCaul, Niamh McMillan, Has Modi, Roger Nichols, Umesh Patel, Bharat Patel, Jay Patel, Prakash Patel, Indrajit Patel, Adrian Price, Sian Retallick, Stephen Thomas, Faisal Tuddy, Gary Warner

In Attendance: Janet Morrison, Shiné Brownsell, Alastair Buxton, Jack Cresswell, Mike Dent, Jamie Gilliam, Gordon Hockey, Zoe Long, Melinda Mabbutt, Suraj Shah, Rosie Taylor, Rob Thomas, James Wood

Item 1 – Welcome from Chair

- 1.1 Sue Killen welcomed the Committee to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair commented that when the annual review meetings took place between her and the Committee, the majority of the members commented that PSNC, and pharmacy as a whole, need a vision and strategy. Taken together with the work of the Review Steering Group, the Chair commented that these two areas will be fundamental to the future of community pharmacy.
- 1.3 The Chair commented on the need to improve governance, underpinned by organisational culture and values. It was noted that we have a chance to lead the sector through example.
- 1.4 The Chief Executive provided an update on the funding deal at the time of the meeting. Issues remain on fee setting for the contraception service and the points system for PQS, and negotiations on these with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England are ongoing. The details also need to be signed off by HM Treasury and it was noted that how we announce the agreement will be important.
- 1.5 On Friday 1st July, a letter was sent to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP and Maria Caulfield MP, to reiterate our desire to discuss Pharmacy First and its costs. A meeting was scheduled on 6th July with Maria Caulfield MP; however, that morning the Chief Executive was informed that the meeting was cancelled, due to the wider developments in the leadership of the Government. Alette Addison will keep the Chief Executive updated once she knows the arrangements following the appointment of the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Item 2 – Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ghada Beal, Peter Cattee, Ian Cubbin (Wednesday 6th July only), Lindsay Fairbrother (Wednesday 6th July only), Adrian Price (Thursday 7th July only) and Anil Sharma.

Item 3 – Conflicts or declaration of interest

- 3.1 None.

Item 4 – Minutes of the 19th May 2022 meeting

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting which took place on 19th May 2022 were approved.

Item 5 – Matters Arising

- 5.1 The Chair went through the action points all of which had been completed or progressed.

Item 6 – Governance: Re-appointment of Chair

- 6.1 There was a recommendation by the Review and Audit Panel (RAP) and the Appointments Panel to re-appoint Sue Killen for another three years which was unanimously approved. (The committee met in private before the main meeting before making the recommendation.)

Item 7 – RSG Implementation

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided a presentation on progress so far, the mandate for change, the goals the RSG was tasked with achieving and the principles to guide implementation.
- 7.2 In groups, the Committee discussed whether the goals and principles were right, whether they will help, drive and guide the work of implementation, and how we can measure performance against them.

Item 8 - Overview of the 7 main projects over the next 2 years, decision points and the Committee's role

- 8.1 The Chief Executive talked the Committee through the main 8 key areas of work and gave an overview on the implementation, including the high priority mobilisation activities.
- 8.2 In groups the Committee discussed what is critical and what could be done differently. The Committee agreed with the activities identified as immediate priorities.
- 8.3 The Committee agreed to change PSNC's name to Community Pharmacy England.

Item 9 - Resourcing and ways of working

- 9.1 The Chief Executive commented that the RSG activity plans will be developed and published for each workstream and that resourcing requirements will be developed and shared with the Resource Development and Finance Subcommittee.
- 9.2 The Committee agreed in principle that significant additional funding needed to be invested to resource the RSG implementation, recognising the pressures on current capacity and the need to continue to deliver business as usual. With political changes we still need to be able to respond to Ministerial initiatives whilst also seeing through major programmes of work like the economic assessment of the sector, reimbursement reform, regulation and supply issues.
- 9.3 It was noted that high level plans will be communicated to the sector, which will include working with LPCs on timelines to help manage expectations on when resources will be available and supporting LPC Chair's to shape LPC support for implementation.

Item 10 - Risk Register

- 10.1 Gordon Hockey highlighted the changes on the risk register and it was noted that this is looked at once a month by the Leadership Team and is on the agenda of every Review and Audit Panel meeting.
- 10.2 The Chair felt that we need to give more consideration to succession planning. It was noted that with specialist roles in a very small organisation, it is difficult to manage the risks, but the office will consider this matter again.
- 10.3 The risk register as revised was agreed.

Item 11 - Provocation - the Way Ahead for Community Pharmacy and key strategic challenges

- 11.1 Richard Murray, Chief Executive of the King's Fund, gave a presentation to the Committee, looking at the operational pressures on the NHS and current policy priorities.

- 11.2 It was noted that the Health and Care Bill has now passed through Parliament and the change brought by the Act is the formalisation of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and each ICS is made up of two parts: an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP).
- 11.3 Community pharmacy needs to be used to its full potential, including its resources, staff and premises of which the NHS is in short supply. It was noted that there is a post-Covid positivity around community pharmacy. There is also a crisis in general practice that community pharmacy can help alleviate by releasing clinical time in some circumstances. The opportunity is there and the public are more open to this than ever before.
- 11.8 Richard Murray also talked about some of the barriers to overcome.
- 11.9 Following questions from the Committee, Richard Murray commented that we should align with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on our Vision/Strategy to avoid confusion within the sector. It's important to provide a positive offer to the NHS and show what can be done for patients. Taking heat out of general practices would be welcomed and speaking with one voice would make it easier for the NHS to work with the sector. Digital integration was also mentioned, and the need to raise ambitions about what the sector can do differently.

Item 12 - Strategic Vision

- 12.1 The Chief Executive provided a presentation on the Vision and Strategy project, which included the purpose of the project, and the proposed approach, process and funding.
- 12.2 Following a discussion, the Committee agreed to the proposal and that it should be funded by PSNC. It was also agreed that the project should be PSNC-led but with engagement with other organisations. The Sector will need to be informed once we have a detailed implementation action plan.
- 12.3 It was agreed that resourcing requirements for the Strategy and influencing project should be incorporated into the resource requirements for the RSG implementation work and submitted to RDF.

Item 13 – Any Other Business

- 13.1 As the 4 and 5 Year deal had not been signed off at the time of the meeting, there was concern that the deal wouldn't be announced until October, at which point there would be huge pressure for PQS and implementation dates for services. The Chief Executive reassured the Committee she will keep a close eye on this.
- 13.2 The Committee congratulated Marc Donovan for being awarded an OBE.